

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE OFFICES OF

THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

449 SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE

COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM, 20 AUGUST 1985

26/85 PRESENT:

R J T Bourne	(President)
N Carruthers	(Vice President)
B Powell	
P Anderson	
P Strong	
B McIntosh	
H McIntyre	
T Drinkwater	
O Slattery	
B Freeman	(Executive Officer)

27/85 IN ATTENDANCE:

A Miller	E.O. Vic
J Simpson	E.O. Qld.
J Grossman	Economist, NSW

28/85 APOLOGIES:

D Beaton	(S.A.)
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29/85 WELCOME:

The Chairman opened the meeting and advised Councillors that he was no longer legally eligible to be a NSW delegate to the CFA, and therefore tendered his resignation from Council and his position of President.

Nominations were called to fill the vacant position of President.

The W.A. Councillors indicated that they wished to challenge the legality of the Minutes of previous meetings and requested that Mr Bourne remain in the Chair. It was agreed that Mr Bourne remain in the Chair until such time as the Minutes were confirmed.

30/85      RESOLVED

"That the Minutes and Report of the Council Meeting held on 9 May 1985 as previously circulated, be confirmed as a true and correct record and be signed by the Chairman."

Although all present who attended the Canberra meeting agreed that the Minutes were correctly recorded, the WA delegates requested that it be recorded that they voted against the confirmation of the Minutes.

31/85      ELECTION:

Bob Bourne again tendered his resignation with regret and then called for nominations to fill the position of President. Mrs McIntyre was nominated and as there was no other nomination, she was elected.

The Executive Officer advised that legal advice had been obtained which confirmed that Mr Bourne could not hold a position on Council representing NSW if he was not a Director of that Federation.

Mr P Anderson called for a vote of thanks to Bob Bourne. He then referred to the term for which a Councillor can stand under Article 10.

Mr Bourne vacated the chair in favour of Mrs McIntyre.

RESOLVED

"That the matter of Councillors' Terms of Office with the CFA be investigated and that a report be submitted to the next Council Meeting, together with an overview by the Federation's solicitor on appropriate terms."

A request was made for copies of the Constitution to be made available to all Councillors. The Executive Officer tabled sufficient copies.

32/85      MEETINGS:

Mr Drinkwater, on behalf of the WA Federation, advised the meeting that he had obtained legal opinions confirming -

- that members of Council were the Federated bodies of all five States.
- that the delegates were elected by State Councils and can be changed by the State Council at any time.
- that to constitute a legal meeting it is required that certain actions be taken, these being:
  - \* Adequate notice be given to all members,
  - \* State Federation offices receive a copy of previous Minutes and an Agenda of the Meeting with explanations,
  - \* Delegates nominated by States receive a copy of those papers.

Mr Drinkwater went on to say that:-

- the reason being that State Councils may discuss and formulate views on the agenda, thus ensuring that the decisions of the CFA reflect the views of States and not individuals.
- as these steps were not taken, the WA delegates who attended the Canberra meeting in May were not accredited delegates, but when they arrived they were confronted with a meeting of Council. Therefore it is the opinion of the WA Federation, based on legal advice, that the May Meeting was illegally constituted. The Minutes of that meeting do not exist because it was not a meeting of the governing body of the CFA, consequently the Minutes to be read out should have been those of the last official meeting, those of the Adelaide meeting.

Mr Drinkwater continued:- "The CFA is an incorporated body made up of five State Federations and delegates on Council are simply representatives of those State bodies.

It follows therefore, that adequate time should be given so that delegates can peruse what is to be discussed at national level, and if necessary call a State Federation meeting to obtain views of all State Council members, and an informed view would then be put at a national level."

The meeting noted that no written legal advice was tabled by the WA delegates, however the Chairman tabled a letter from J Benm & Associates, Solicitors, being a legal opinion obtained by Council and relevant to the matters raised by the WA Federation.

After discussion, the meeting proceeded to resolution:

(i) RESOLVED

"That the comments by the W.A. delegates be noted."

(ii) RESOLVED

"That the document tabled by the Chairman, being a legal opinion, be received into the Meeting."

Copies were provided to each Councillor.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the various constitutional aspects in respect of the May Council Meeting, as raised by the WA delegates, would be investigated and a report made to the next Council Meeting.

33/85 BUSINESS ARISING:

ACCECC '87

Mr Drinkwater stated "We formally withdraw any association with the Co-operative Federation on this matter - we will proceed under our own banner. As Chairman of ACCECC '87 I will write to you stating our opinion. We have written to ICA, Bob Beasley, and said that we do not consider the International Meeting to be of any significance."

RESOLVED

- (i) "That this meeting rescinds all previous motions relating to the Co-operative Federation's support of holding a National and/or World Conference, and in particular, Motion 11/85."
- (ii) "That this meeting of Council ratifies the decisions of the Executive sub-committee as recorded in their Minute 13/85 and as previously circulated to Councillors."
- (iii) "That the Co-operative Federation of Australia disassociates itself and withdraws all support from the proposed ACCECC '87 National and World Conferences."
- (iv) "That this Meeting of Council requests the Executive Officer to write to instruct ACCECC '87 and the WA Federation to cease using the name of CFA in any way without obtaining prior permission from the secretary of this Federation."
- (v) "That the Council rescinds all previous motions nominating delegates to the International Co-operative Alliance Meetings."
- (vi) "That the Chairman, Mrs McIntyre, Executive Member, Mr B McIntosh, and the Executive Officer, Mr B Freeman, are hereby appointed delegates to the ICA and are to attend the forthcoming ICA Meeting in Washington at no cost to the CFA."
- (vii) "That the Council rescinds previous motions relative to delegates representing the CFA to the International Raiffeisen Union and hereby appoints the Executive Officer as official delegate."

The delegates from W.A. requested their dissention from the above motions be recorded.

34/85 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Executive Officer gave a verbal report on his activities since the last Council Meeting and an overview of the last 12 months.

Matters raised were:-

- \* Successful Taxation Summits
- \* Regular Council Meetings
- \* Visits to State Federations
- \* High profile in Canberra
- \* Recent meetings with (a) Treasury  
(b) Dept Primary Industries  
(c) Journalists

Mr Freeman undertook to supply to Councillors a written report on his Canberra visit.

35/85 TAXATION UPDATE:

Mr Grossman, Economist with the NSW Federation, gave a verbal report on action to date. The meeting was advised that direction of Council, Minute 25/85, relative to follow up matters from the Taxation Summits, had been carried out.

36/85 FINANCIAL

The audited accounts to 30/6/85 were received and discussed.

In response to an enquiry, the Meeting was advised that the Federation was registered under the Western Australian Association's legislation.

Concern was expressed that the style and presentation of the accounts may be outdated and it was agreed that the requirements of the ACT, under which the Federation is registered, should be checked to ensure appropriate presentation.

Queries were also raised as to whether or not the most appropriate method of recording the Co-operative Bank Trust Fund and amounts received and paid for the Tax Summits, was employed.

RESOLVED

"That the accounts be referred back for redrafting, to take account of the matters raised by Council, and that the Accounts as redrafted be referred again to the Auditor, prior to signature by the Chairman and one other Councillor."

37/85 SUBSCRIPTIONS:

RESOLUTION

"That the budget, as presented, not be adopted but be referred back to the Executive Officer for re-drafting and circulation to the States at the earliest opportunity. The Meeting agreed that the budget needed to be drafted on the following basis and in respect of (2) Consultancy, with the four options (a), (b), (c), (d).

- (1) Last year's subscription fees
- (2) Consultancy:
  - (a) on the basis set by the Executive Committee.
  - (b) on the basis that the decision be set aside paying only that which we must pay, or are committed for at this time.
  - (c) on a basis of subsidy from NSW Federation.
  - (d) on the basis of a "minimum cost" budget - ie; Secretarial only.

Council discussed the excellent support for and effect of the Taxation Summits and agreed that the CFA should write direct to co-operatives seeking funds for ongoing representation.

It was agreed on a request from Mr Anderson, that action be deferred until after the various States had considered their financial contribution to the CFA.

In response to a request from W.A. that the budget be telexed to them prior to 1st September, the Chairman advised that quite obviously problems would be experienced in meeting the request, however she assured the delegates that every endeavour would be made to assist WA's timetable.

38/85 STATE MATTERS:

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The desirability of Central Banking being available for all co-operatives throughout Australia was raised by Mr Drinkwater, and in reply the Executive Officer circulated a proposal prepared by NSW for consideration by State Federations.

NEW SOUTH WALES

In support of the concept of providing funds for the National Federation's activities from services like Central Banking, the NSW General Manager stated that all services developed by the Co-operative Federation of NSW are appropriate to the needs of all co-operatives throughout Australia and the NSW Federation's policy is to make these services available to any co-operative desirous of utilising them, and is also

anxious to participate in the development of an appropriate plan to accommodate the financial requirements of a strong, viable National body.

39/85     GENERAL BUSINESS:

Discussion centred on the attributes of Mr Gary Lewis, who spoke at the NSW Federation's Annual General Meeting. Those Councillors who attended agreed that he was an excellent speaker, well-versed in co-operative history, and considered that the Movement would be well served by any opportunity taken to use his extensive and presentation abilities.

40/85     CLOSURE:

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm.

Date.....

(Signed).....  
Chairman